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Application No.: 09/604,540  
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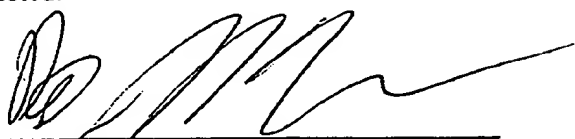
PATENT

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to present certain references for consideration, which are listed on the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement provided herewith. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, that were indicated as allowable in the February 2, 2004 Notice of Allowance, are patentable over these additional references. However, out of an abundance of caution, applicants have filed this RCE to ensure that these references are considered by the Examiner.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Date: April 23, 2004



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